



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Deval L. Patrick
GOVERNOR

Timothy P. Murray
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Ian A. Bowles
SECRETARY
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Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

Contact:
Lisa Capone
(617) 626-1119

Patrick Administration Awards \$596,475 to Help Land Trusts and Environmental Groups Protect Over 463 Acres in 11 Communities

*Round Two Funding Brings Conservation Partnership Grants
FY 2008 Total to over \$1 Million*

BOSTON – Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Ian Bowles today announced that the Patrick Administration has awarded \$596,475 in FY 2008 Conservation Partnership Grants that will enable 11 non-profit organizations to protect over 463 acres of open space across the Commonwealth.

“From Cape Cod to the Pioneer Valley, the grants we are awarding today represent vital partnerships between the state and land trusts and other non-profit organizations to preserve natural resources throughout Massachusetts,” Secretary Bowles said. “Combined with over \$442,000 EEA awarded in the first round of Conservation Partnership Grants last fall, the total for this program in FY 2008 tops \$1 million.”

Totaling \$1,038,495 for both rounds of FY 2008 funding, EEA’s Conservation Partnership Grants are the latest funds awarded to fulfill Governor Patrick’s pledge to invest at least \$50 million annually in land conservation over the next five years. Today’s grants assist land protection efforts in Barnstable, Wellfleet, Pelham, Middleborough, Brewster, Rehoboth, Barre, Holden, Hardwick, Cohasset, and Kingston.

Conservation Partnership Grants are designed to help non-profit organizations purchase land or interests in land (such as conservation restrictions) for conservation or recreation. Grant recipients must convey a perpetual conservation restriction to either the community where a project exists or to a state agency, and protected property must be open to the public. This year’s grant awards were limited to \$60,000, or no more than half the total project cost.

EEA's Division of Conservation Services evaluated and selected proposed projects based on their ability to conserve biodiversity, protect water quality, promote recreation, and preserve working farms and forests.

The 11 awards announced today help to fund the following conservation projects:

Barnstable Land Trust – Bayview Farm, Barnstable: \$60,000

- 5.45 acres
- This property is the missing link between over 300 acres of town-owned and private conservation lands and an 8,500-acre acre encompassing the Sandy Neck/Barnstable Great Neck Marsh ecosystem.

Wellfleet Conservation Trust – Pilgrim Springs Woodlands, Wellfleet: \$60,000

- 0.99 acre
- This site rounds out the largest publicly-accessible open space on the Lower Cape outside the National Seashore. Most of the site resides in BioMap Core Habitat and in the Statewide Land Conservation Plan. (BioMap promotes strategic land protection by identifying areas of the Commonwealth most in need of protection to preserve the native biodiversity of Massachusetts. The Statewide Land Conservation Plan is a comprehensive analysis of the remaining undeveloped and unprotected land in Massachusetts that sets land conservation priorities. The Plan uses information on water resources, working farms and forests, recreational lands, prime habitats, and urban parks to develop a comprehensive vision for land conservation.)

The Kestrel Trust – Pelham Wildlife Sanctuaries, Pelham: \$52,400

- 135 acres
- This site provides habitat for various wildlife species that adds to an existing complex of thousands of acres of conservation land.

The Nature Conservancy – Freitas Property, Middleborough: \$60,000

- 69.66 acres
- This includes three parcels in the heart of a significant archeological district, which lie entirely within BioMap Core Habitat and Estimated Habitat. The site harbors five species protected under the Massachusetts Endangered Species Act, and includes a stretch of the Nemasket River – location of the state's largest herring run.

Brewster Conservation Trust – Plona Acquisition Project, Brewster: \$21,400

- 2.37 acres
- This wooded property expands and protects the buffer zone of the 900-acre Punkhorn Parklands, and protects land in the Statewide Land Conservation Plan, an historic cart path, and BioMap Core Habitat.

Rehoboth Land Trust – Ephraim Hunt Ministerial Lands, Rehoboth: \$60,000

- 63 acres
- This property protects a significant water supply area for local residents and provides important habitat for many wildlife species. It is identified as BioMap Core Habitat and includes land in the State Land Conservation Plan.

Massachusetts Audubon Society – Alexandrovich project, Barre: \$60,000

- 103 acres
- This wooded property is surrounded by Audubon's Rutland Brook Wildlife Sanctuary on three sides, is part of the Statewide Land Conservation Plan, and is a BioMap Supporting Natural Landscape.

White Oak Land Conservation Society – Porcupine Hill, Holden: \$60,000

- 29.84 acres
- This wooded site abuts a 200-acre state-owned tract of land, drains into the Worcester reservoir system and is mostly upland with dramatic ledges. Both this property and abutting land have established trail systems.

East Quabbin Land Trust – Baker Conservation Acquisition, Hardwick: \$42,575

- 47.8 acres
- This is a wooded site with a wetland area that drains into Hardwick Pond, a Priority Habitat. The site itself is a BioMap Supporting Natural Landscape.

The Trustees of Reservations – Brass Kettle Brook Parcels, Cohasset: \$60,000

- 5.6 acres
- This site has been identified as core habitat for rare and endangered species, and will help fill holes in a protected landscape of 150 acres.

Jones River Landing Environmental Heritage Center – Holmes/Watson Historic Jones River Boatyard, Kingston: \$60,000

- 0.4 acre
- The goal of this project is to protect the Jones River from further inappropriate development while advancing the preservation of riparian habitats and shipbuilding sites.

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